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MEMBER OF CONGRESS
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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

June 28, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

I write to ask that you allocate funding in the upcoming infrastructure package to address shoreline erosion, flooding and related impacts in shoreline communities across the eight-state Great Lakes region. The recently announced infrastructure framework includes \$47 billion for resilience and I ask that a portion of these funds be directed to programs and authorities that can assist shoreline communities along the Great Lakes respond to unprecedented challenges along their shorelines and build resilience to future conditions.

Water levels in the five Great Lakes reached historic highs in recent years causing severe shoreline erosion and flooding. More frequent extreme storm events have exacerbated these impacts, threatening critical infrastructure, homes, businesses, and recreational assets in shoreline areas. Lake levels remain high and are expected to fluctuate more rapidly in the future, so coastal resilience will be an ongoing challenge for our region.

The need to invest in projects that safeguard critical infrastructure and public amenities in vulnerable shoreline areas is significant. Data collected by the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative shows that municipalities have spent more than \$800 million on coastal protection efforts over the past two years, and expect to spend nearly \$1.8 billion over the next five years. These are conservative estimates that do not capture the full scope of the need facing local governments.

Restoring and protecting the Great Lakes is a bipartisan priority for the Great Lakes Congressional delegation. Our constituents and municipal leaders have urgently called for greater support for local coastal protection efforts. Most federal programs are oversubscribed and often not well targeted to coastal erosion and other impacts from high lake levels. With some adjustments, several programs can administer funding to the most critical needs. I would be happy to work with the relevant committees to ensure a targeted approach.

The eight Great Lakes states have more than 4,500 miles of shoreline, nearly as much as the states bordering on the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and west coasts combined. The lakes hold more than 90% of our nation's supply of fresh surface water and 30 million people live within the Great Lakes watershed. With this in mind, I believe a substantial, targeted investment in coastal resilience in the Great Lakes is warranted and will generate substantial benefits for the environmental and economic health of our local communities.

Sincerely,

David P. Joyce
Member of Congress